

The February edition of the Maryland Energy Administration newsletter, featuring updates on events, recent news, and more.

# Maryland Energy Administration



It's been more than a month since our last MEA newsletter, and a lot has happened in our *Smart, Green, and Growing* state.

On January 7, Governor O'Malley [convened](#) a **Sustainability Forum** to elicit feedback and ideas from stakeholders in preparation for a second term as Maryland's governor. More than 750 stakeholders, including conservationists, farmers and business owners, took part in plenary sessions and discipline-specific workgroups the forum, which was hosted by Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. Participants spent time during break-out sessions discussing Smart Growth, Bay Restoration, Clean Energy /Climate Change, and Resource Based Industries.

On January 20 MEA [announced](#) the start of a new **Home Performance Rebate program**. Marylanders are now eligible to receive up to 50% off the cost of qualifying home energy efficiency upgrades by combining MEA rebates with existing programs offered by their local utilities. Taking advantage of this great program can help homeowners increase the comfort of their home while saving money and bringing Maryland

closer to achieving its goal of reducing energy consumption 15% by 2015.

On Tuesday, January 25, MEA hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the deployment of 143 heavy-duty hybrid trucks under the **Maryland Hybrid Truck Initiative**, which was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Energy. By investing in these trucks, Maryland is continuing to prove that it is Smart, Green, and Growing by moving closer to reaching its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2025.

And last, but most certainly not least, this past Friday Governor O'Malley formally introduced the **Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2011** to the House of Delegates. The bill requires the development of between 400 to 600 MW of offshore wind capacity approximately 10 nautical miles off of Maryland's Atlantic coast. This is enough electricity to power more than half of all the homes in the City of Baltimore. Development at this scale could create as many as 2,000 construction jobs over 5 years, 400 ongoing operations and maintenance jobs thereafter, and an estimated \$1.9 billion in economic impact to Maryland over five years. To learn more, check out this helpful [facts and figures sheet](#).



## Efficiency Upgrades in St. Mary's County

Using a \$50,000 grant from the MEA, residents of the Cedar Lane Senior Living Community in Leonardtown now save money on energy bills while enjoying a comfortable indoor climate regardless of weather. [Read](#)



## Clean Energy Communities

The MEA has awarded grants or zero interest loans to more than 160 communities in FY 2010 to leverage local government investment in energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy projects. [Read more...](#)



## Energy News

Find out how MEA contributions help fund high tech solar innovation by one Columbia firm, and get the latest updates on offshore wind.

[Read more...](#)



## Upcoming Events

During Presidents' Day weekend, enjoy a break from Maryland's 6% sales tax on an assortment of qualifying ENERGY STAR appliances.

[Get details...](#)



## Smart, Green & Growing

SG&G helps Maryland adopt smart growth policies, grow green jobs, improve transit, and revitalize communities.

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